30th. Under the use of these remedies the inflammatory symptoms disappeared, but she still complained of colicky pains in the right hypochondrium, and as she had had eleven copious and feculent stools since the operation, she took twelve drops of tincture of opium.

July 1st. Pain of abdomen still complained of; six stools. Continue the opium. With regard to the state of the wound, the sutures have been cut away, as the upper part has already united, but the skin in the lower part having been cut by the sutures it still remains open. The wound of the parietes does not correspond with that of the uterus, as they are drawn towards the left side.

July 2nd. As the pain of right hypochondrium continued to increase, three leeches were applied to the part, and afterwards a blister, by which they were considerably mitigated. During the following days the strength of the patient gradually decreased from incessant diarrhœa, which was, however, at length put a stop to, though with considerable difficulty, by opiate enemata. Nutritious diet was given her without fear of inflammation, and the patient so rapidly recovered, that, by the end of July, she was almost completely restored to health. A fistulous opening, however, remained, as on the former occasions, which was not healed when she left the hospital with her fine healthy child on the 25th of August last.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY.

44. *Fracture of the Skull and Rupture of the longitudinal Sinus during Natural Labour.* By Dr. Michaelis, of Kiel.—A woman, aged thirty-six, was taken in labour with her first child on the 27th February, 1836. After slight pains for thirty-six hours, the waters came away at four P. M. of the 29th. At this time the midwife found the os uteri open, but full and hard. At eight o'clock on the following morning, Dr. M. was called, and found the patient, as is common in Germany, on the labour-chair, with sufficient but not severe labour pains, the vagina extremely tender, dry, and hot, and the perineum tense, and the child's head completely in the pelvis. The woman was put into bed, and warm cataplasms applied to the genitals; and in two hours things were completely changed, the parts being now only moderately swelled, lubricated, and not painful, while the head advanced under good pains, only apparently strongly jammed against the immoveable coccyx. At eleven o'clock the child was born. Examination immediately after the child was born detected no deformity of the pelvis, the diameter of the outlet being certainly not less than three inches and three quarters. The child breathed both during birth and immediately after, but then died.

The head was much disfigured, and, on examining it carefully, the following appearances were found: 1. The frontal bones were normal as to structure and uninjured, but so flattened that the frontal and parietal portions lay nearly in the same place. 2. The fontanelle and anterior two-thirds of the sagittal suture projected high up, and the sagittal borders of the parietal bones were thrown open and partook of the displacement. 3. The left parietal bone was not otherwise affected, and, with the exception of a few points which were very thin, it was well-formed. 4. In the posterior third part of the sagittal suture, where the parietal bones were firm and well formed, and the suture only two lines in width, were seen small livid portions of the longitudinal sinus forced between the bones. 5. The occipital bone was flattened and forced deep under the parietal bones, but not otherwise injured. 6. The right parietal bone, which during birth had been directed towards the promontory of the sacrum, was found covered anteriorly and above with effused blood, and, on removal of the periosteum, was found fractured in five places. These fractures or fissures were as follows: *a*, a small fissure near the *tuber ossis frontis*, four lines long; *b*, a much larger one running from the fontanelle through the centre of the parietal bone, very nearly two inches in length; *c. d.* two small fissures half an inch in length, near the sagittal suture. There were also four small openings, from incomplete ossification, in the same bone, which was throughout very thin.

On opening the skull, there was found no extravasation beneath the fissures, but posteriorly under the sagittal suture the longitudinal sinus was found ruptured, and there was an extensive coagulum on the cerebrum on both sides, under the dura mater, and on the tentorium cerebelli.

The peculiarity of this case is, the occurrence of so extensive injury during natural labour and with a well-formed pelvis; and is explained by the natural weakness of the bone and theun favourable position of the head during birth.—*B. and F. Med. Rev.* and *Zeitschrift für die gesammte Medicin.* B. iii. H. 4.

45. *Case of Poisoning by Liquor Potassæ.* By DARTO-MASSART, Pharmacien at Mons.—Mr. D., aged thirty-five, drank, instead of wine, a quantity of water of potash. Soon perceiving the error, he complained of severe pains in the epigastric region and nausea, and, in the course of a quarter of an hour, of general coldness; face pale, presenting the appearance of intense suffering. A solution of tartaric acid was administered, (four drachms to the pint of water,) and given at short intervals. Sinapisms were applied to the feet, and emollient fomentations to the abdomen, with frequent enemas. In a short time the symptoms abated, and he began to grow warm; a slight perspiration continued for two hours, followed by a black stool. Two days after, the tongue and back part of the mouth threw off a very thick and tough membrane. The patient took small quantities of broth, and shortly recovered his health.—*Gazette Médicale de Paris*, November, 1836.

MEDICAL STATISTICS.

46. *The inapplicability of Statistics to the Practice of Medicine.*—This question has been recently brought before the Royal Academy of Medicine at Paris, and been very elaborately and fully examined. The following paper read by Mr. Double, in the discussion, excited considerable attention, and we shall lay it before our readers, as the subject is one of great importance. For ourselves we have already expressed our opinions on the subject (see our No. for August 1836, p. 489,) and need only add that it is our continued conviction that until some new problem in transcendental mathematics, shall be devised, the numerical method can never serve to guide us to a positive method of treating individual cases of disease. At the same time we disclaim all wish to invalidate the general usefulness of statistics in medicine. But we will not detain our readers further from the observations of Mr. Double.

"The science of statistics is in these days one of the most fashionable; and in the ardour of their zeal its disciples have applied it indiscriminately to medicine. They have attempted to substitute mathematical for logical analysis—to make arithmetic take the place of induction—and calculation that of reason. Let us, then, consider what some expect from statistics applied to medical practice. In mathematical analysis, the probability of future events is calculated from the observation of preceding facts, but always under the rules of the universal laws of large numbers, and without any individual application.

"In medical statistics, on the other hand, the numerical method is expected to determine from the observation of preceding facts, and according to their number, the best method of treatment in each individual case which may occur. This, however, is quite impossible; and I may remark, that were it ever effected, medicine would cease to be either a science, an art, or even a profession: it would become as mechanical as the employment of the shoemaker.

"What is called in geometry the universal law of large numbers, is the rule and the foundation of all calculations of probabilities. One of the conditions of this law is, that the causes of the events calculated, though some are constant and others variable, yet can in no sense be said to vary progressively. From this law it results, that all the differences and irregularities which balance each other disappear in the quotient: and in this way the calculations of lotteries, of maritime insurances, &c. are made.

"But this is evidently not applicable to medicine: neither our successes nor our failures balance themselves in large numbers, as in the case of marine insurances. Each of our problems embraces but one individual; and besides, diseases always